

C. 4412 (3)

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EAST ASHFORD RURAL DISTRICT, KENT.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1966.





## EAST ASHFORD (KENT) RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer  
of Health and Public Health Inspector  
for the Year, 1966

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1966.

### Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 11,680 which represents an increase of 280 over that of the previous year.

### Live Births and Rate

The number of live-births was 204 (112 M. 92 F.) an increase of 40 over that of the previous year and the crude birthrate was accordingly, 17.47 which, after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and allows comparison with other Districts, becomes 20.61; this rate higher than that of 17.7 for England and Wales.

### Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths registered was 1 (F.) and the stillbirth rate was accordingly 4.88 which was lower than that of 15.4 for England and Wales.

### Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

The number of infant deaths was 8 (6 M. 2 F.) and the infantile mortality rate was accordingly 39.11 and was higher than that of 19.0 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were:-

Broncho-pneumonia : - 2 days.

Pulmonary atelectasis	}	- 2 days
Aspiration of mucous at Birth.		

Asphyxia due to Inhalation of vomit (Cot death)	}	- 1 month

Extreme Prematurity	}	- 1 day
Metastases and Respiratory Distress Syndrome		

Broncho-pneumonia	}	- 9 months
Mongolism		

Pulmonary Atelectasis	}	- 7 hours
Prematurity		

Acute respiratory failure.	}	- 4 months
Hiatus Hernia		
Inhalation Pneumonia		

Melaema	}	- 6 months.
Mongolism		

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and deaths under one week of age) is Prematurity, Asphyxia and Atelectasis, Birth Injuries and Congenital Malformations and the most important maternal factor



is Toxaemia of Pregnancy.

#### Maternal Deaths and Rate

This rate was again nil as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.

#### Total Deaths and Rate

The number of deaths from all causes was 135 (74 M. 61 F.) and the crude death rate was accordingly 11.56 which, after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, is reduced to 9.4 and was lower than that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

The chief group cause of deaths, as would naturally be expected, was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System; of these there were 60.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of 24 of those deaths. The age groups were as follows:- 1 between 45 - 54: 2 between 55 - 64: 7 between 65 - 74: 14 over 75 years. The majority of deaths were over 65 years, including 12 over 75 years and these figures, although small, conform to the usual pattern that the majority of these deaths occur amongst the elderly and the aged which would seem to indicate that one of the causative factors is due to a degenerative process, although the actual cause is still obscure, with particular reference to those who die in early life.

Cancer, as invariably in previous years, was the second highest cause of deaths in the following age-groups: 1 between 1 - 4; 3 between 35 - 44; 2 between 45 - 54; 11 between 55 - 64; 6 between 65 - 74; 8 over 75 years. As cancer can be treated successfully if not too advanced, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of those patients sought medical examination too late.

Cancer of the Lung/Bronchus was the cause of 10 (7 M. 3 F.) of those deaths compared with 8 in the previous year, in the following age-groups: 2 between 35 - 44: 4 between 55 - 64: 3 between 65 - 74 years; 1 over 75 years. Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus usually occurs in earlier age-groups than other forms of Cancer, excluding Cancer of the Breast, and having regard to the fact that atmospheric pollution in the District is negligible, and that deaths amongst males invariably predominate, it may be assumed that the inhalation of tobacco smoke is a causative factor amongst those who have a predisposition to the disease.

Cancer of the Breast was the cause of 2 deaths, 1 in the early age-group of 45 - 54 and 1 between 55 - 64 years. Many deaths occur in early life, and taking account of the insidious nature of the disease, diagnosis of Cancer in this site is comparatively easier than other forms of Cancer and again it may be assumed that medical examination is sought too late.

Amongst the other causes of death there was no exceptional mortality. There was no death due to Infectious Disease.

#### Measles

94 cases were notified in comparison with 187 in the previous year. This follows the usual pattern of outbreaks occurring every second year.

Measles 'per se' is not a serious infection these days and its formerly serious complications are now becoming less and less frequent, when they do occur, with the exception of Acute Encephalitis which is very rare, treatment by the Antibiotics is usually specific.

It is equivocal whether this infection should still be statutorily notifiable as during outbreaks, Practitioners are otherwise fully engaged and have little time to make these notifications and Office Staffs are obliged to register and arrange payment of the notification fees which is an unnecessary waste of time and expenditure.

Whooping Cough

There were two cases notified throughout the year, which can only be attributed to the effectiveness of vaccination. Before vaccinations began to take effect, outbreaks were common and there were many deaths amongst infants due to Broncho-pneumonia.

Acute Encephalitis

One case was notified.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

Two cases were notified. Including the secondary Pneumonias which are not notifiable, there were fourteen deaths in the following age-groups : 1 under 4 weeks; 1 under 1 year; 1 between 15 - 25; 4 between 65 - 74; 7 over 75 years. Pneumonia is a common terminal cause of death amongst the aged.

Tuberculosis

One new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified in the age group 20 - 35.

No new cases of non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified, which is an evident index of the safety of the milk supplies; also the 100% meat inspection by the Public Health Inspectors shows that there is minimal infection of cattle and cows.

Also, there was no death which is a reflection of the efficaciousness of modern treatment.

In conclusion, I would state that the Public Health of the District was very satisfactory during the year, and I would take this opportunity of thanking you for your support of and interest in the work of the Department and the staff for their co-operation and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL M.M., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,  
14, Church Road,  
Ashford, Kent.

Tel: No.: Ashford 1485





STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

FOR 1966

Area:- 51,389 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	...	11,680
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<u>Number of Inhabited Houses According</u> <u>to the Rate Books</u>	...	...	...	4,287
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<u>Rateable Value:-</u>	...	...	...	£305,650
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<u>Sum Represented by a Penny Rate</u>	...	...	...	£1,140
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SOCIAL CONDITIONS

East Ashford Rural District is predominantly agricultural in character - there are few light industries. The Council has been progressive in building 100 pre-war and 611 post-war Traditional Houses and generally social conditions are very satisfactory.





EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>East Ashford Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. <u>Live Births</u>	204	112	92	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	17.47 (Adjusted Rate) 20.61)	17.7
(a) Legitimate	188	103	85			
(b) Illegitimate	16	9	7			
2. <u>Stillbirths</u>	1	-	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	4.88	15.4
(a) Legitimate	1	-	1			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. <u>Total live and still-births</u>	205	112	93			
4. <u>Deaths</u>	135	74	61	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	11.56 (Adjusted Rate 9.11)	11.7
5. <u>Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	not available
6. <u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age</u>	8	6	2	Rate per 1,000 live births	39.11	19.0
(a) Legitimate	7	5	2	Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	37.23	-
(b) Illegitimate	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	-	
7. <u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age</u>	4	3	1	Rate per 1,000 live births	19.61	12.9
(a) Legitimate	3	2	1			
(b) Illegitimate	1	1	-			
8. Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births					7.84%	
9. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					31	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea					-	
Deaths from Measles					-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

Whooping Cough	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	94
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever			8
Acute Encephalitis			1
(Post Infections)			



CAUSES OF DEATH IN EAST ASHFORD RURAL

DISTRICT DURING 1966

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
ALL CAUSES				74	61
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	3	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	7	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	7	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	5	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	16	8
19.	Hypertensions with heart disease	...	...	-	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	6	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	4	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	8	6
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	4	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	-	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	7	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	2	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	1	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	2	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-





TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1966

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>			<u>Deaths</u>		<u>Total cases on Register</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	35	13
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.



IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation figures for 1966 based on the return sent to the Ministry of Health.

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Primary</u>		<u>Reinforcing</u>	
	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph./Tet.</u>	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph./Tet.</u>
1966	66	1	-	-
1965	73	-	2	1
1964	3	-	44	8
1963	1	-	9	1
1962	-	-	1	9
1961 - 1959	-	-	19	52
1958 - 1950	-	-	1	4
Total	143	1	76	75

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>3rd and 4th Dose</u> <u>(Salk and Oral)</u>	<u>3 Orals</u> <u>(Complete Course)</u>
1966	28	-
1965	103	-
1964	15	-
1963	4	-
1962	2	10
1961 - 1959	2	85
1958 - 1950	1	21
Total	155	116

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

<u>Primary Vaccination</u>	<u>Re-Vaccination</u>
<u>1 Year</u>	<u>School Age but Under 8 Years</u>
124	1





ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year

1966

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

J. H. MEURICE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. H. POOLE, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board



Council Offices,  
8, Elwick Road,  
Ashford, Kent.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the  
East Ashford Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the Sanitary and other circumstances of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1966.

During the year great difficulty was experienced in maintaining the cesspool emptying service. The number of requests for emptyings increased and the Contractor was unable to handle the work.

The weekly refuse collection service has worked very well in its first full year. The last of the older type vehicles was replaced and all of the vehicles are now of the modern compression type which has increased the efficiency of the service.

At the time of writing permission has just been received from the Ministry for the Brook scheme to go out to tender. It is regrettable that the Ministry saw fit to delay this scheme for over a year when it was so urgently needed.

There was a further increase in the number of animals slaughtered in the District during the year. The majority of inspections being carried out after normal office hours.

The number of applications and approvals for improvement grants rose this year from 32 to 35.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN H. MEURICE,

Senior Public Health Inspector.





WATER SUPPLY

The majority of the area receives its mains water supply from the Mid Kent Water Company, a small number of Houses (23) are, however, served by the Folkestone Water Company. Only the more isolated properties are without a supply. Some 30 properties have a private piped supply. No extensions of the mains have been carried out this year. A scheme to extend a main to serve one property was approved, but work has been delayed. None of the water supplies within the district is plumbo-solvent. In the parish of Ruckinge four properties obtain their domestic water from a standpipe. The number of persons living in these houses is 12 (approx.).

Examination of Water Supplies.

		No. of samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Statutory Undertaking	Raw Treated	11	11	Nil
Private Sources Piped to Dwellings		-	-	-
Other Private Sources (Wells etc.)		1	-	1

The house from which the unsatisfactory sample was taken obtains its water from a well, its only source. Every effort is being made to persuade the owner to connect to a mains supply at a nearby farm.

No samples for Chemical examination were taken by the department during the year.

Houses supplied from private sources (piped) .....	30
Houses supplied from wells, etc. .... (approx.)	50
Houses supplied by Mid Kent Water Co. (Population 11,400) .....	4201
Houses supplied by Folkestone Water Co. (Population 60 approx.) .....	23
Number of houses in East Ashford Rural District .....	4304
Number of Houses connected to main during year .....	131

Due to pressure of work in other directions it was not possible to continue the survey of wells, etc. commenced last year. It is hoped to continue the survey during the present year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are six areas within the East Ashford Rural District where houses are connected to a main sewer, all the other houses within the district are served by cesspools or septic tanks and an emptying service is provided by the Council. This service normally provides for two free emptyings for each house a year. Over the past few years it has become apparent that in certain areas this service is insufficient especially in the winter months when the heavy clay subsoil becomes saturated and the overflows to septic tanks cease to function with the consequent nuisance and danger to health. This year as a short term answer to this problem, extra free emptyings have been made available in certain cases.

One difficult area is the village of Brook where a scheme for the sewerage of the village was prepared and approved by the Ministry more than a year ago. However, Ministry approval for the commencement of the scheme has only just been received because of the economic situation. Work on this scheme will start as soon as possible.



The major combined sewerage scheme for the villages of Brabourne and Smeeth should be completed during 1967 despite a major set back and a subsequent change of Contractor midway. The following areas within the district can be said to be in urgent need of a sewerage scheme:

- (1) Old Wives Lees, Chilham. (link-up with existing Chilham Village works)
- (2) Sevington (agreement with Ashford U.D.C. to discharge into their sewers)
- (3) Aldington Village.
- (4) Mersham Village (partially sewered).
- (5) Ruckinge Village.
- (6) Bilsington Village.
- (7) Warehorne Village.
- (8) Boughton Aluph.
- (9) Part of Wye.

All the above areas are in equal need and the list is not in any order of priority. Schemes for areas 1-7 in this list are in varying stages of preparation, either by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor or by Consulting Engineers. The combined scheme for the villages of Ruckinge and Bilsington (5 and 6) is now prepared and awaiting Ministry approval.

Cesspool Clearance.

This service is carried out by a Contractor on the Council's behalf. Early in the year this Contractor informed the Council that, due to labour difficulties, he was unable to accept more than about 30 orders a month and returned 94 orders he had not carried out. It was necessary to engage another Contractor and this caused a considerable delay in complying with requests to cleanse cesspools and septic tanks. Due to previous commitments the new Contractor was unable to clear this backlog of work quickly and delays continued until December when the Council's old Contractor was in a position to accept a small increase in orders. By the end of December things showed signs of improving and it was decided to keep both Contractors permanently engaged on this work. There was an increase in the number of requests for the clearance of cesspools and septic tanks during the year, 2,180 as compared with last year's figure of 2,029. The cost of this service showed a considerable increase, £4,864 as compared with \$2900 last year. This was due to the fact that the charges of the new Contractor were considerably higher than that of the old Contractor whose own charges were increased early in the year.

This cost is considerable when one considers that no permanent benefit is derived from the spending of this money. It would be far more advantageous if a large proportion of this money could instead be used towards the cost of the provision and maintenance of sewers and disposal works.

Drainage.

Total number of inhabited houses .....	4304
Total number of houses connected to sewer .....	1279
Total number of houses not connected to sewer .....	3034
Number of houses with pail or chemical closets (estimated) .....	244
Number of houses with cesspools or septic tanks (estimated) .....	2793

During the year only 12 houses were converted from pail or chemical closets to a water closet with septic tank or cesspool drainage. It had been hoped that a closer check could have been made on the estimated number of properties with pail or chemical closets, but this was not possible. An effort will be made next year to get an even more up-to-date figure. Pail closets in Boughton Lees (21) are cleared weekly by direct labour.







## FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION.

### Registered Premises.

There are now 53 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, one less than last year. This total is made up as follows, last year's figures in brackets:

- (1) Retailers of ice-cream ..... 44 (47)
- (2) Preparation and manufacture of sausages and preserved foods, etc ..... 9 (7)

During the year inspections were made of all these premises. All the retailers of ice cream sell pre-packed from one or other of the large combines and it was not thought necessary to take any samples. A total of 53 visits were made to these registered premises.

### Food Premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

The total number of food premises subject to the above regulations is 101. These can be catagorised as follows:

Type of Premises	No. of Premises	No. of Premises complying with Reg.16	No. of Premises subject to Reg.19	No. of Premises complying with Reg.19
Licensed Premises only	28	28	28	28
Licensed Premises including Restaurant	5	5	5	5
Poultry Processing	2	2	2	2
Butchers	6	6	6	6
Fruit Shop	1	1	1	1
Cafes	7	7	7	7
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Confectioners	2	2	2	2
Canteens	1	1	1	1
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1
Grocers	46	46	46	46
TOTAL	101	101	101	101

A total of 240 visits were made to all types of food premises during the year. As a result of these visits 35 informal notices were served (including verbal). All the premises were improved as a result. The standard in food premises in the area continues to be generally satisfactory.

Three complaints from members of the Public were received during the year, these were as follows:

- (a) Hairgrip in loaf of bread.
- (b) Mould on wrapped loaf.
- (c) Tin of corned beef (contents black due to sulphiding).

In each case the matter was taken up with the manufacturer and it was not considered necessary to resort to legal action.



Milk and Dairies.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959.

The number of registered distributors within the district is now 21 and the number of registered dairies 5. During the year a visit was made by members of the Public Health Committee to a dairy which, though outside the district, provides a large proportion of all bottled milk consumed within the district. This visit was very useful and informative giving the members a good idea of the work and problems of the milk distribution trade. Three complaints were received during the year, these were:

- (1) Glass in a bottle of school milk. Investigation showed that the inner lip of the bottle had been damaged after bottling.
- (2) Foil cap in a bottle of milk. It was not possible to show when this entered the bottle.

No legal action was taken in either case.

In the third complaint it was alleged that the private supply of milk at a smallholding on the Marsh was radio active. A sample was obtained and submitted to the County Analyst whose report showed that the milk had no abnormalities.

Meat Inspection.

Only one slaughterhouse exists within the district. Due, however, to the times of slaughtering, the majority of inspections are made outside normal working hours and during the year 230 hours of overtime were worked compared with 184 hours last year. An approach has been made to the owner, and it is hoped that some agreement will be made next year which will enable the overtime working to be cut down considerably.

During the year one hundred per cent meat inspection was carried out despite the further increase in the number of animals slaughtered. This increase was considerable, some 500 carcasses. The following figures show that this trend has now become a regular feature.

Carcases killed and inspected, 1963 .....	2275
" " " " 1964 .....	2420
" " " " 1965 .....	2501
" " " " 1966 .....	3011

The slaughterhouse being modern in construction and equipment presents no problems, and most of the meat coming from this slaughterhouse is sold in the owner's own shops and is of a very high quality. A total of 131 visits were made for purposes of meat inspection.

Unsound Food.

Diseased meat from the slaughterhouse was the only food condemned during the year.

Unsound food is usually disposed of by burying on the Council Tip under supervision, or in the case of meat, by Eastern By-Products.





Details of Meat Inspection and Percentage of Meat Condemned.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	379	1	25	1319	1287	-
Number inspected	379	1	25	1319	1287	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	1	-	1	7	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	52	-	-	38	68	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	13.72	100.0	-	2.95	5.62	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	-	-	-	23	-
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.16	-	-	-	1.48	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrig- eration	2	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of Slaughterhouses in use.

Slaughterhouses/Abattoirs in operation owned or leased by Local Authority  Nil	Private Slaughterhouses		Bacon Factories	Knackers Yard
	Licensed	Operation		
	1	1	Nil	Nil





Poultry Inspection.

There are two processing premises within the district and the annual throughput is 200,000 head of which 17,500 are eviscerated, the rest merely bled prior to packing. The percentage of birds rejected is approximately 0.5%, the weight being about a ½ ton. The majority of the poultry processed are broilers and hens. During the year six visits were made to the premises, but it is hoped to step up the number of inspections in future. These inspections will be mainly under the Food Hygiene Regulations as we must, of necessity, rely on the good-will and integrity of the trade in rejecting unfit birds. Fortunately, our relations with the operators of these plants are excellent, full co-operation being easily achieved.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Unfit Houses.

During the year only a small number of houses were demolished or closed. The majority of unfit houses on the original list have now either been demolished, closed or purchased by private persons and made fit. The number demolished or closed amounted to 7, and three properties on which Orders had been made were made fit.

(2) Improvement Grants.

There was a small increase in the number of applications for discretionary and standard grants during the year, 35 compared with 32 the year before.

(a) Discretionary Grants.

Twentysix applications for Discretionary Grants were received during the year, all of which were approved. The cost of works involved was approximately £33,351 and the amount of grant £8,607. An average cost of £331 per property compared with last year's average cost of £301 per property.

(b) Standard Grants.

Nine applications for Standard Grants were received during the year, three more than last year (the total cost of works involved is not known). The amount of grant was £1,442 an average of £160 per property compared with last year's average of £247 10 Od. per property.

(3) Inspections - Public Health Acts and Housing Acts.

Number of Inspections of dwellings and repairs .....	143
Number of dwellings made fit .....	34
Number of Inspections for purposes of Section 16/17	
Housing Act 1957 (Demolition and Closing Orders) .....	59

Improvement Grants and Standard Grants.

Total number of inspections in connection with	
all improvement grants .....	261

Public Health Acts, etc.

Number of inspections re:	
Caravans .....	263
Aged and Infirm persons .....	3
Dust and Smoke nuisances .....	21
Drainage and Cesspools .....	231
Water Supplies .....	25
Refuse tips .....	267
Refuse collection and Litter .....	512



A. Houses Demolished.

Clearance Areas (Housing Act 1957)	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
1) Houses unfit for Human habitation	-	-	-
2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	-	-	-
3) Houses on land acquired under Sect.43(2) Housing Act 1957	-	-	-
<u>NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS</u>			
4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect.16 or Sect.17(1) Housing Act 1957	4	3	1

B. Unfit Houses Closed.

	Number	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
5) Under Sect.16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957	3	Nil	Nil
6) Under Sect.17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957	-	-	-
7) Parts of Buildings Closed under Sect.18 Housing Act 1957	-	-	-

C. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which defects were remedied.

	By Owner	By Local Authority
8) After informal Action by Local Authority	31	-
9) After formal Action under		
a) Public Health Acts	-	-
b) Sect. 9 & 16 Housing Act 1957	-	-
Under Sect. 21 Housing Act 1957	-	-
Under Sect. 24 Housing Act 1957	-	-
10) Under Sect. 27 Housing Act 1957	3	-





D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act 1957).

Position at end of Year:	No. of Houses (1)	No. of Separate Dwellings contained in Col. (1)(2)
11) Retained for temporary accommodation (a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under Section 17(2)	-	-
(c) Under Section 46	-	-
12) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 35 or 35	-	-

E. Purchase of Houses by Agreement.

	No. of Houses	No. of Occupants of houses Column (1)(2)
13) Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased in the year	-	-



#### (4) Housing.

At the end of the year there were 143 families on the Council's waiting list. The Council built 50 new Council houses during the year. The number of private houses built fell to 87 compared with 118 the previous year. However, due to the high number built by the Council, the grand total of new houses built rose to 137 compared with 126 last year.

#### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

It was decided at the beginning of the year to concentrate on the administration of this Act and to make sure that all registered premises received either a general inspection or a follow-up visit as a result of last years general inspection. I am pleased to say that this was achieved although this was done at the expense of inspections under the Factories Act.

During the year 7 new premises were registered, but as 4 premises were removed from the register, the total number of premises rose only to 62 as compared with last year's total of 59. This total can be divided up as follows:

Offices .....	15
Retail Shops .....	36
Catering Establishments .....	10
Fuel Storage Depots .....	1

A total of 224 persons are employed in these premises of which 80 are males and 144 females. During the year 39 general inspections were made, and the total number of visits for all purposes made to registered premises was 110.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

##### (1) Collection.

The weekly refuse collection service has worked extremely well in the first full year. Refuse is still collected from the kerbside, except in the case of aged and/or infirmed persons when the refuse is collected from the dwelling. However, it is to be hoped that when the economic situation permits a start will be made on a paper sack system of collection. Although the collection costs would rise with this system the benefits derived by all make it well worth the extra cost.

During the year the last old refuse vehicle was replaced, all the Council's refuse vehicles are now of the modern compression type, which greatly increases the efficiency of the service.

The use of this modern type of vehicle does mean, however, that certain large and bulky items of refuse cannot be collected on the normal round. The removal of such items are made by arrangement with the occupier of the property, usually on a Saturday morning. No charge is made for this special collection.

Because the population of the district is below a specified figure, we are not required to submit details of the cost of this service to the Ministry, however, during the year we did receive a visit from a Ministry Inspector and an examination was made of the cost of the service provided. As a result of this examination our costs were shown to compare extremely favourably with many larger areas.

During the year the refuse vehicles travelled 27,319 miles and consumed 2,309 gallons of Diesel oil. The old refuse vehicle which was in use until September used some 1,400 gallons of petrol. It is estimated that nearly 300,000 bins were cleared.





## (2) Disposal.

The whole of the refuse collected in the area is disposed of by tipping. The Council maintain four refuse tips. Due, however, to the very wet weather in the last 3 months of the year, two of these tips have been virtually closed. Both these tips are nearly at the end of their useful life. The largest of our refuse tips, the Aldington Quarry Tip, was used throughout the whole year by the Ashford Urban District Council. I estimate that nearly a third of the area of this tip has now been filled as the result of this use by that Council, however, a useful income has been obtained from the trade refuse deposited in this tip from firms within the area of the Ashford Urban District Council and this, together with the fact that the Ashford Urban District Council has maintained the tip, has meant that we have been able to allow them the use of this tip free of charge. I must say that during the whole year, except for the very odd occasion this tip has been operated and maintained in an extremely efficient manner.

It is estimated that during the year over 3,200 tons of refuse was collected from premises within this District and disposed of on the Council's tips.

## (3) Staff.

The staff at present engaged on refuse collection and disposal consists of 5 driver/loaders and 4 loaders. One of the driver/loaders being engaged mainly on tip maintenance. With the exception of one man the staff remains the same as last year. They work very well together and I have been very pleased with their work during the year.

## (4) Paper Salvage.

The collection of paper salvage continued during the year. I am pleased to report that there was an improvement on last year's figures. The prices for waste paper remained stable, but I am expecting a decrease in the rate per ton next year. The figures for the past four years are as follows:

Year	Tonnage			Value		
	Tons	Cwts	Qtrs	£	s.	d.
1963	170	17	2	1389	10	5
1964	182	10	1	1488	9	7
1965	161	16	1	1468	7	9
1966	174	-	-	1597	-	-

The net income is around £700 which more than covers the annual amount put aside towards the cost of the replacement of one of our refuse vehicles. This is a useful contribution towards the rates and it is in the interests of the ratepayers that this scheme should continue and, if possible, improve.

During 1966 over 1½ million tons of waste paper was recovered over the whole country. It is estimated that local authorities contributed in excess of 185,000 tons which represents some 18% of this total figure.

## DISINFECTION.

No requests for disinfection of bedding etc. were received by the Department during the year.

## DISINFESTATION.

	<u>Bugs</u>	<u>Fleas</u>
Council Houses	-	-
Other Houses	-	1





## LITTER.

There has been no improvement in the indiscriminate tipping of litter on the roadside during the year. In fact, if anything, it has got worse and on a number of occasions special collections were made from various places in the district where rubbish had been deposited. As far as is possible weekly collections are made of all litter bins. During the summer months and after Bank Holiday weekends extra collections are made from certain lay-bys.

## ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES.

During the year four cases of what appeared to be abandoned motor vehicles were investigated. Two vehicles were subsequently removed, apparently by the owners. In the other two cases it was necessary for the Council to arrange for the removal and no costs were recovered.

## CARAVAN SITES.

There are no multiple caravan sites in the district. Individual licences have been issued in 10 cases for single caravans.

## HOP PICKERS CAMPS.

Only two small camps are in use for hop pickers and seasonal workers. It is estimated that 40 persons used the camps during the year.

## ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963.

Only three licences were issued under the above Act during the year. Very few problems arise, the owners being most co-operative.

## SCRAP METAL DEALER'S ACT 1964.

No new licences were issued during the year. Four persons remain on the register.

## RODENT CONTROL.

During the last few months of the year there was a definite increase in the number of rats reported. The total number of complaints rose from 150 last year to 191. Surveys were made of a further 216 properties where no complaint had been received and, as a result, a further 176 infestations were discovered. A total of 1,520 visits were made to all types of properties in connection with rodent control.

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1) Number of properties in District	4,495	802
2a) TOTAL Number of properties (including nearby properties) inspected following notification	407	-
b) Number infested by (i) Rats	356	-
(ii) Mice	21	-
3a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	216	11
b) Number infested by (i) Rats	176	11
(ii) Mice		
<u>Sewers</u>		
4) Were any Sewers infested by rats during the year	Yes	No



# FACTORIES ACT 1961.

The following table sets out details of inspections made under the Factories Act 1961.

## 1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect- ions (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	42	8	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-

## 2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-





Due to pressure of work on the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963, it was not possible to make many inspections under the Factories Act, however, many of the Factories will have been visited by the Factory Inspector under this new Act as they are responsible for this type of Office and many other items under Factories Act. It seems to me reasonable for the Factory Inspectorate to assume full responsibility over all Factories. Nowadays virtually all Factories have power equipment, and in these circumstances the Local Authority deal only with sanitary accommodation and it seems unreasonable to duplicate the work.

#### Outworkers.

Two visits were made to outworkers homes during the year.

JOHN H. MEURICE,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

